

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/810,640

Examiner

Elias Desta

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on October 15, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Detailed Action

Remarks/Amendment ✓

1. Applicant's arguments, see amendment/remark, filed October 15, 2004, with respect to Ridolfo (U.S. PAP 2003/0216888 A1) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-7 has been withdrawn.

Allowance ✓

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In reference to claims 1, 2 and 5-7. Stoh et al. (IEEE Article, 'Maintenance Scheduling by Using Simulated Annealing Method') teaches an efficient method for solving the thermal generator maintenance-scheduling problem (see Stoh et al., page 850, Introduction). The maintenance problem is surveyed based on objective functioning (cost/reliability), deterministic/stochastic and optimization/heuristic technique. A comparison of simulated annealing and integer programming is carried out for small, medium and large-scale plants (see Stoh et al., page 854, Table 2). Stoh et al. method addresses problems of maintenance scheduling.

Whereas, unlike Stoh et al., the claimed invention provides a system for aiding the preparation of operation and maintenance plans for a power generation installation where the plant data are obtained from a plurality of power generation units. The power generation units' efficiency is calculated by making use of the

obtained plant data. Further, the failure probability of the apparatus used in the units is calculated, and then operation and maintenance plans for respective power generation units are prepared based on the calculated power generation efficiency and failure probability.

Citation of pertinent prior art:

- Martz et al. (U.S. Patent 4,455,614) teaches gas turbine and steam turbine combined cycle electrical power generating plant having a coordinated and hybridized control system and an improved factory based method for making and testing combined electric power cycle.
- Fieglein et al. (U.S. Patent 3,829,232) teaches system and method for operating a steam turbine with dual hydraulic independent over speed protection system adapted for a nuclear reactor powered steam turbine.

The remaining claims are dependent upon claims 1 and 2 and contain further limitations.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elias Desta whose telephone number is (571)-272-2214. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu (8:30-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571)-272-2216. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)-272-1750.

Elias Desta
Examiner
Art Unit 2857

-ed

December 20, 2004


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800